

SHORT COMMUNICATION

A newly discovered population at Cape Le Grand supports Lucky Bay as the type locality of *Banksia plumosa* (Proteaceae)

The type gathering of *Banksia plumosa* (R.Br.) A.R.Mast & K.R.Thiele was collected by Robert Brown from Bay 1 (Lucky Bay, c. 35 km east of Esperance) in January 1802 (Figure 1). Over the following two centuries, further collections of this species have been made in an area from the Stirling Range and Albany eastwards to the Fitzgerald River (Western Australian Herbarium 1998–). However, *B. plumosa* has not been recorded again from any area east of Bremer Bay. George (1999) concluded that the type locality was in error, and that the more likely type location was in the Albany district (King George Sound), where Brown collected from late December 1801 to early January 1802 (Vallance *et al.* 1993).

In November 2011, a Department of Environment and Conservation flora survey in the New Island Bay–Hellfire Bay area of Cape Le Grand National Park, east of Esperance, located a population of *B. plumosa* subsp. *plumosa* (Figure 2) growing on stony lateritic ridges among granite outcrops and deep grey sands (*A. Markey & B. Bayliss* NIB 9502, PERTH 08311870) (Markey 2012). This site was approximately two kilometres east from the summit of Mt Le Grand, three kilometres south-west of Frenchman’s Peak and approximately six kilometres west of Lucky Bay, and only accessible by walking through scrub. Much of the area had been burnt two years previously and most of the plants encountered were seedlings. A few fruiting adult plants were located in unburnt patches, and their identity was confirmed by comparing samples with collections at the Western Australian Herbarium.

The discovery of this Cape Le Grand population confirms that Brown’s collection label is accurate and that this species was originally collected in the vicinity of Lucky Bay. It is likely that more populations of *B. plumosa* occur in Cape Le Grand National Park on lateritic ridges flanking granite hills.

Banksia plumosa (R.Br.) A.R.Mast & K.R.Thiele. *Josephia plumosa* (R.Br.) Poir., *Dict. Sci. Nat.* 24: 247 (1822). *Dryandra plumosa* R.Br., *Trans. Linn. Soc. London* 10(1): 214 (1810). *Type citation*: ‘In Novae Hollandiae orâ australi: Lewins Land: in lateribus saxosis collium (*ubi v.v.*)’ *Type specimen*: South Coast Bay 1 [Lucky Bay, Western Australia], January 1802, *R. Brown Iter Austral.* 3421 (*syntypes*: BM 001001103 image viewed, BM 000915816 image viewed, K *n.v.*, MEL *n.v.*).



Figure 1. Robert Brown's type gathering of *Banksia plumosa* from Bay 1 (Lucky Bay), east of Esperance (BM 000915816).



Figure 2. *Banksia plumosa* subsp. *plumosa* (A. Markey & B. Bayliss NIB 9502) in moderately dense Proteaceae–Myrtaceae shrubland at Cape Le Grand National Park, with an unnamed outcrop adjacent to Mt Le Grand in the background.

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References

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